explore the possibility of future co-operation in regard to the National River Management Plan, with special reference to the Damodar River in West Bengal and Bihar and a forestry project for the Changer area in the Palampur district of Himachal Pradesh. Germany is assisting a drinking water supply project in Madhya Pradesh (DM 45 million) and have committed DM 95 million and DM 30 million for water supply projects in Rajasthan and West Bengal respectively.

Hunting of barking deer, wild boar and birds in Arunachal Pradesh

1719. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the illegal and large scale hunting of barking deer, wild boar and birds in Arunachal Pradesh by the local tribals;

(b) if so, what directions have been issued to the State Government to prevent the hunting of such wild animals and birds; and

(c) what other steps have been taken or proposed to be taken to change the hunting habits of tribals and to maintain ecological balance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No large scale hunting of barking deer, wild boar and birds has been reported from the State of Arunachal Pradesh.

(b) and (c) Section 9 of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, prohibits hunting of wild animals listed under Schedule I to IV and Sec. 51 provides for punitive measures for infringement of the Act.

Apart from deterrent measures taken by the Government under the Act, the Govt. of India has also started schemes during 1992-93 to associate scheduled tribes and rural poor in regeneration of degraded forests with the aim of improving biomass resource base in such areas and for improving the economy of the poor. This will also provide alternative employment opportunities and divert the attention of the people so that people do not indulge in unhealthy activity of hunting of wild animals and inturn destroy the ecological balance of nature.

Solution of Kashmir Issue

1720. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

SMT. VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether U. S. Administration has lately clarified that U.S. does no longer favour plebiscite for a solution of the Kashmir issue between India and Pakistan, adding that ever since 1965 war US. Government has never mentioned plebiscite to be the basis of a solution.

(b) if so, which of the other developed and developing countries have expressed themselves against plebiscite in regard to Kashmir problem; and

(c) what steps have been and are being taken by Government to bring the different powers especially the members of U.N. Security Council, round to this point of view?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Testifying before the Sub-Committee on Asia and Pacific of the US House of Representatives on 28 April, 1993 the US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State said that after the 1965 India-Pakistan War, the US Government have not mentioned plebiscite one way or the other.

(b) and (c) Government have and

will continue to apprise the international community of the facts regarding developments in Jammu & Kashmir in the correct perspective. Most countries have endorsed and accepted the Simla Agreement as the appropriate framework for the conduct of relations between India and Pakistan and resolution of any bilateral differences.

Joint Statements given by Indian and Thai PM's

1721. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a joint statement was issued by the Prime Ministers of India and Thailand after the conclusion of the visit of our Prime Minister to that country; and

(b) if so, what are the salient points of the statement; and

(c) whether the two countries/ agreed to strengthen cooperation in combating all forms of cross-border. terrorism and its nexus with drug trafficking?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir, a Joint Press Statement was issued. ..

(b) The Joint Press Statement mentioned, inter alia, the goodwill and friendship underlying the relations between the two countries; the resolve to further increase economic, trade and investment interaction both at the official and private sectors; and to complete drug trafficking and its nexus with terrorism.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Extradition of Memon Brothers

1722. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any breakthrough was made between our Prime Minister and the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Shri Nawaz Shriff during their recent meeting in Dhaka on the extradition of Memon brothers; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) Prime Minister met the Prime Minister of Pakistan on 11 April, 1993 during the SAARC Summit at Dhaka.

Prime Minister told the Prime Minister of Pakistan that statements and assurances from Pakistan notwithstanding, nothing had been done by Pakistan to locate and to return to India the members of the Memon family, the main suspects in the Bombay bomb blasts who were in Pakistan; and unless this issue is resolved and Pakistan ceases its support to terrorism and subversion directed against India, a conduosive climate for meaningful discussions on bilateral issues will be lacking.

Pakistan Prime Minister stated that a task force had been set up to look into the case and assured that full investigations would be conducted in the case. However, unfortunately, there has been no progress in the matter.

Agreement between Indian and Myanmar

1723. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 268 given in the Rajya Sabha on 28-4-93 and state:

(a) what would be the likely impact of the agreements; and

b) to what extent the situation would improve in the region?